Cytology Computer Image Proficiency Testing - An Alternative to Glass Slides



CCIPT Team Members

- Primary Team: MariBeth Gagnon, Roger Taylor, Jim Lange, Tommy Lee
- Contract Support: Nancy Gathany, Richard Draut, Ed Kujawski
- ISA Support: Bruce Bowden (NRC), Calvin Hightower
- Support: many DLS staff members

Background - Need

- CLIA mandated glass slide PT Feb 1992
- RFP for glass slide PT Mar 1993
- Symposium: Cytology PT Nov 1993
- Cooperative agreements Jun 1994, Pilot Study - Apr 1995
- Contract to compare glass slide PT & computer PT to rescreen Sep 1994 to Spring 1997
- CDC to develop CCIPT from NLM prototype

Required Characteristics

- Computer monitor images must mimic microscope images
- Test locator and identification skills
- Good image quality
- Comparable to glass slide PT
- Ideally, use easily available computer platform

Capture Setup - Overview



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Digital Camera



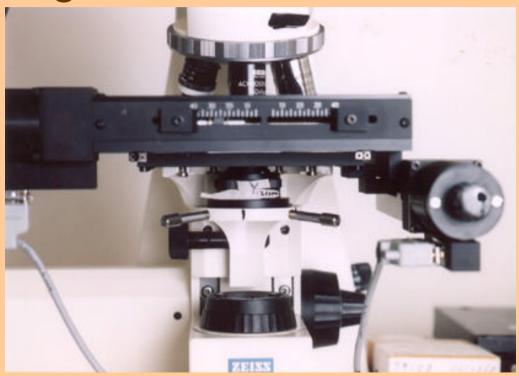
Capture Microscope



Capturing Images



Close-up of Condenser and Stage Controller



Testing Setup - Overview



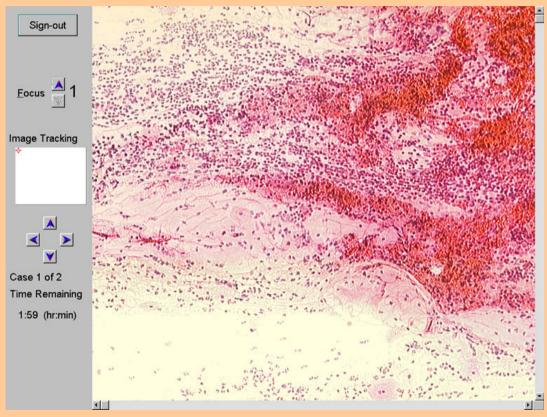
Server and Storage Setup



Testing Station



User Interface



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Image - squamous epithelial cells from a slide WNL

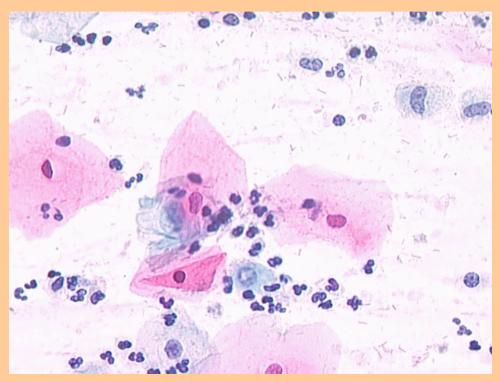
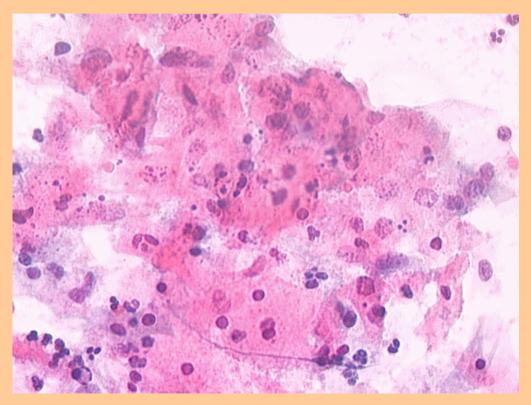


Image - HGSIL

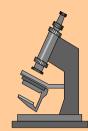


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Challenges

- Hardware/software compatibility & integration
- Platform change Unix to PC, C to Delphi
- Expand capture area 1x1 mm to 10x5 mm
- Image quality and size optimized 8-bit
- Scan speed load each image, read ahead
- Luminance gradient (tiling) trial & error
- Stage imprecision overlap, align, correlate
- Procurement of non-standard equipment

Summary



- To fill regulatory need national PT
- Large dimensions
- Technology readily adaptable to other microscopic disciplines
- Great potential for training & education

Plans

- Pilot test
- Compare to glass slide PT in contractfunded study - ASI
- Make available as viable alternative for congressionally mandated PT

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